

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-8 (Canceled).

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A vibration-absorbing tube comprising:

a bellows composed of a thin metal and having troughs and ridges;

a fiber braid reinforcement covering the bellows and having a braided angle of 30° to 50°; and

a buffer material covering the outer face of the bellows from the bottom of the troughs to a height that is 0.5 to 2.0 times the height of ridges, wherein the cross section of the bellows has a sequence of S2-shapes or U-shapes.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The vibration-absorbing tube according to claim 9, wherein gaps in the fiber braid reinforcement are impregnated with a curable resin or rubber composition.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The vibration-absorbing tube according to claim 10, wherein the resin composition comprises at least one resin selected from the group consisting of urea resins, melamine resins, phenol resins, epoxy resins, vinyl acetate resins, cyanoacrylate resins, polyurethane resins, maleic acid resins, isocyanate resins, and acrylic resins.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The vibration-absorbing tube according to claim 10, wherein the rubber composition comprises at least one rubber selected from the group consisting of chlorinated rubbers, acrylic rubbers, hydrogenated nitrile rubbers,

epichlorohydrin rubbers, butyl rubbers, chlorosulfonated polyethylene rubbers, and chlorinated polyethylene rubbers.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The vibration-absorbing tube according to claim 9 further comprising at least one additional fiber braid reinforcement at the outside of the fiber braid reinforcement.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The vibration-absorbing tube according to claim 9, wherein the fibers constituting the fiber braid reinforcement and the additional fiber braid reinforcement are selected from the group consisting of acrylic fibers, novoloid fibers, carbon fibers, polyester fibers, vinylon fibers, silk, nylon fibers, polyamide fibers, polyparaphenylene benzobisoxazole fibers, and aramid fibers.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The vibration-absorbing tube according to claim 9, wherein the cross section of the bellows has a sequence of S2-shapes or U-shapes.

Claim 16 (Canceled).

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The vibration-absorbing tube according to claim 9, wherein the buffer material is a rubber composition comprising at least one rubber selected from the group consisting of polyisobutylene, acrylic rubbers, hydrogenated nitrile rubbers, epichlorohydrin rubbers, butyl rubbers, chlorosulfonated polyethylene rubbers, and chlorinated polyethylene rubbers.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The vibration-absorbing tube according to claim 14, wherein the buffer material is a rubber composition comprising at least one rubber selected from the group consisting of polyisobutylene, acrylic rubbers, hydrogenated nitrile rubbers, epichlorohydrin rubbers, butyl rubbers, chlorosulfonated polyethylene rubbers, and chlorinated polyethylene rubbers.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The vibration-absorbing tube according to claim 15, wherein the buffer material is a rubber composition comprising at least one rubber selected from the group consisting of polyisobutylene, acrylic rubbers, hydrogenated nitrile rubbers, epichlorohydrin rubbers, butyl rubbers, chlorosulfonated polyethylene rubbers, and chlorinated polyethylene rubbers.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): The vibration-absorbing tube according to claim [[16]] 9, wherein the buffer material is a rubber composition comprising at least one rubber selected from the group consisting of polyisobutylene, acrylic rubbers, hydrogenated nitrile rubbers, epichlorohydrin rubbers, butyl rubbers, chlorosulfonated polyethylene rubbers, and chlorinated polyethylene rubbers.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): The vibration-absorbing tube according to claim 9, wherein the vibration-absorbing tube is partially disposed in piping for a carbon dioxide refrigerant system, hydrogen gas, liquefied petroleum gas, chlorofluorocarbon refrigerant, or liquefied natural gas.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The vibration-absorbing tube according to claim 14, wherein the vibration-absorbing tube is partially disposed in piping for a carbon dioxide

refrigerant system, hydrogen gas, liquefied petroleum gas, chlorofluorocarbon refrigerant, or liquefied natural gas.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The vibration-absorbing tube according to claim 15, wherein the vibration-absorbing tube is partially disposed in piping for a carbon dioxide refrigerant system, hydrogen gas, liquefied petroleum gas, chlorofluorocarbon refrigerant, or liquefied natural gas.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): The vibration-absorbing tube according to claim [[16]] 9, wherein the vibration-absorbing tube is partially disposed in piping for a carbon dioxide refrigerant system, hydrogen gas, liquefied petroleum gas, chlorofluorocarbon refrigerant, or liquefied natural gas.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): The vibration-absorbing tube according to claim 17, wherein the vibration-absorbing tube is partially disposed in piping for a carbon dioxide refrigerant system, hydrogen gas, liquefied petroleum gas, chlorofluorocarbon refrigerant, or liquefied natural gas.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The vibration-absorbing tube according to claim 18, wherein the vibration-absorbing tube is partially disposed in piping for a carbon dioxide refrigerant system, hydrogen gas, liquefied petroleum gas, chlorofluorocarbon refrigerant, or liquefied natural gas.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): The vibration-absorbing tube according to claim 19, wherein the vibration-absorbing tube is partially disposed in piping for a carbon dioxide

refrigerant system, hydrogen gas, liquefied petroleum gas, chlorofluorocarbon refrigerant, or liquefied natural gas.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): The vibration-absorbing tube according to claim 20, wherein the vibration-absorbing tube is partially disposed in piping for a carbon dioxide refrigerant system, hydrogen gas, liquefied petroleum gas, chlorofluorocarbon refrigerant, or liquefied natural gas.